

Unofficial Chairboys Express Programme



# *Boston United Football Club*



Doug Newton is on hand to knock the ball home after Jeff Lissamans shot rebounds off the crossbar for the 'Pilgrims' fourth v Wycombe Wanderers. Photo: B. Whittaker. Last season's nightmare at York Street.

*versus*  
*Wycombe Wanderers*

Saturday 5th November 1988 K O 3.00pm

# Introducing

# BOSTON UNITED

## The story so far...

Although it was 1934 before the name Boston United first appeared, football had been played in the town since the late 1800's and, indeed, always on the same site as the present York Street stadium.

In those early days there were two clubs - Boston Town, whose headquarters were 'The Coach and Horses', and Boston Swifts, who used 'The Whale' as their H.Q. In fact, as both the public houses were situated on 'Main Ridge' and the pitch was virtually just opposite, it wasn't surprising that for the first 40 years or so that was what the Ground was called. A small stand was erected in the early 1900's but other than that there were no other facilities, and the teams changed at the back of the appropriate pub! (They also retired there afterwards for a little longer...)

Swifts never re-appeared after the First War and it was left to the Club called simply 'Boston' to achieve the first giant-killing in the F.A. Cup by beating the then powerful Football League Club Bradford Park Avenue 1-0 in 1925. The Club was now competing in the Midland League, whereas it's predecessors had played in the Lincoln League, local cups and friendlies - although Town had also entered the F.A. Cup prior to the turn of the century.

By 1933 lack of success and financial problems resulted in a Public Meeting being called in an attempt to sort things out and save the Club. Only one person showed any interest. That man rescued the Club and remained it's guiding hand for over half a century. His name was Ernest Malkinson. The Club was re-formed under the new title Boston United and the town's colours of Amber and Black replaced the White and Blue.

By this time, with entrances and dressing-rooms at the west end of the Ground it was known as 'Shoddy Lane' - and still is by some older supporters. The Club still would find major success elusive - until 1955/6 when they finished as runners-up to Peterborough United in the Midland League, whilst in the F.A. Cup they travelled to Derby County and beat them 6-1. (This is still a record score by a non-league club against a League club on their

own ground) It was at Spem in the 3rd Round that a brave fight wasn't enough to stop them going out. Attendances at Boston at that time were averaging 5-6,000 for League games, and when floodlights were first used for the visit of Corby Town in 1955 over 12,000 people were in the ground!

In a search for more honours, and a Football League place, United joined the Southern League for the 1957/8 season, finishing third. A mid-table position was all that was gained the next year, whilst the following season saw them rock bottom and they resigned and spent 1960/61 in the Central Alliance - completing a League and Cup 'double'. The next season they re-joined the 'new' Midland League but by 1964 financial problems were at such a point they were forced to resign and to keep the Club name alive whilst they sorted themselves out, they ran an amateur side in the local league during 1964/5.

Season 1965/6 saw the start of the climb back to senior non-league football with a United Counties League and Cup 'double'. Refused entry back into the Midland League in 1967 they became something of an oddity by being an east coast Club playing in the West Midlands League! The travelling didn't seem to bother them as they won the Championship both years and the League Cup as well in the second year.

1968 saw United as founder-members of the newly-formed Northern Premier League and the start of an 11-year period in which all kinds of honours were won and records were set.

Only twice were they not involved in the Championship race, winning it a record four times. (They were the first club ever to win a N.P.L. 'treble' of League, Cup and Shield). The League Cup was won twice, the N.P.L. Shield four times and the Non League Champions of Champions Trophy twice.

United also created a record of conceding only 3 goals at home in league games in a whole season, 51 consecutive home and away league games without a defeat, and 64 home league games (over 3 years!) without a defeat. During this period a number of F.A. Cup triumphs over Football League opposition were gained and, notably, a return to the Baseball Ground

in 1974 when they held the then European Champions Derby County to a 0-0 draw. The replay saw 11,000 spectators at York Street, by which name the ground was now known, and Derby through with few problems.

United received a huge body-blow in 1977 when Football League inspectors failed the Ground as being suitable for the Football League, and although United finished as N.P.L. Champions yet again, runners-up Wigan Athletic were put forward instead - and were elected.

The United directors unanimously agreed that this must never happen again, and so commenced the vast undertaking of rebuilding virtually the whole of the York Street Ground, launching new fund-raising schemes in 1978. The local population backed them incredibly, and new floodlights, stands, toilets, turnstiles, terracing and snackbars turned York Street into the superb stadium it now is, recognised as the best in non-league football.

It has taken United over ten years and the equivalent - at today's prices - of over £3 million and they still haven't finished as proven by the fact that now the Ground even boasts emergency lighting all round. It is one of the few in the country to do so.

Unfortunately, with priorities being centred off the field, memorable events as regards the playing side have been few and far between since United joined the Alliance Premier League in 1979 as founder-members and fourth place is the highest they have managed, and that was in their first season.

The highest point they have enjoyed was most certainly in 1984/5 when they celebrated 50 years by reaching Wembley in the F.A. Trophy Final. Although they went down fighting 2-1 to Gola League Champions Wealdstone, there were over 12,000 Boston supporters that day in the crowd of 22,092. About 5,000 of which turned out again the next day to welcome the team back to Boston. United have now changed their priorities and they are attempting to gain the honours which must culminate in a Football League place, if their ambition is to be realised, and their supporters justly rewarded.

## Introducing the men from Boston United...

**George Kerr (Manager)** joined the Pilgrims in November 1987 as Manager. As a player Kerr made 383 Football League appearances for Bamsley, Bury, Oxford United and Southport United. He then moved into management with two spells in charge of Lincoln City, and stints at Grimsby Town and Rotherham United.

**Ronnie Reed (Assistant manager)** joined the Pilgrim in May as assistant to George Kerr. The previous four years he had been manager of Stafford Rangers, leading them to the N.P.L. Championship in 1984-85 and the Championship Shield in 1985-86. Previous managerial experience with both Workson Town and Matlock Town, and leading the F.A. XI versus U.A.U. XI in 1987. During his playing career he played for Chesterfield, Southampt.

Workson Town and Boston United.

**John McKenna (Goalkeeper)** signed in August 1987 after returning from South Africa where he had been playing for Grinokkar Rang in the National Soccer League. Started his career with Everton, after two seasons moved to Leeds United. Played in the Central League. Then joined Morecambe. Left to join Durban City for two seasons. Selected for the England Semi-Professional squad to play Wales in March 1988. Selected in the Vauxhall Conference 'Sunday Mail Team Of The Year' by his fellow players. United player of the Year 1987-88.

**Paul Shirliffe (Defender)** is the Club record transfer fee of £12,500 brought the England Semi-Professional International from Northern Premier League Frickley Athletic to York Street in June 1988. The holder of six Semi-Professional caps, Paul had been at Frickley for three seasons. Previous experience with Sheffield Wednesday and Northampton Town.

**David Vaughan (Defender)** signed for the Pilgrims in October 1987 for a small fee from Burton Albion. He skipped Burton Albion in their 1986-87 F.A. Trophy Final against Kidderminster Harriers. He made over 300 Appearances for the Northern Premier League side during a five year stay. Also had a lengthy stay at Mossley where he won a F.A. Trophy runners-up Medal in 1980.

**Gerard Creane (Defender)** is in his fifth season at York Street after seven Football League appearances for his home town Club Lincoln City. Also had spells in Hong Kong with Tsun Wan and in Finland with Jaro. A roofing contractor by trade.

**David Beavon (Defender)** joined the Pilgrims in July 1986. Started with Notts County as an apprentice and became a regular in their First Team. Transferred to Lincoln City for a substantial fee and then became a regular with the Imps. Released and joined Kettering Town in the Alliance Premier League. Also had a spell with Shephard. Charterhouse.

**David Mossman (Midfield)** is a 24 year old left sided player who joined the Pilgrims in June 1988 after being released by Lincoln City at the end of their Championship winning season. Made around 30 appearances for the Imps, scoring five goals. Started his career with Sheffield Wednesday before being transferred to Rochdale for £10,000, then moved to Stockport County for a fee of £7,000. Also had a short loan period with Bradford City. Altogether David has made around 50 Football League Appearances.

**Martin Hardy (Defender)** is a 25 year old central defender who joined the Pilgrims for a £10,000 fee from Northern Premier League Workson Town in June 1988. Previous experience with Notts County.

**Warren Ward (Forward)** joined the Pilgrims in September 1986 after being released by Lincoln City. Made 15 Football League appearances for the Imps scoring 18 goals, also had a period on loan with Exeter City. Previous



— BOSTON UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB 1988-89 —  
Back row: Ted Oatland (Physiotherapist), Alan Coopland, Lee Hurford, Gary Balon, Glenn Beech and Don Robinson (Trainer).  
Middle row: Martin King, David Vaughan, Martin Hardy, John McKenna, David Cusack, Billy Miller, Allen Crombie, Warren Ward and Gerard Creane.  
Front row: Paul Shirliffe, Chris Cook, Gary Simpson (Captain), George Kerr (Manager), Ron Reed (Team Manager), Paul Wilson, David Beavon and Stuart Hamill.  
Figure: Bob Whistler

ous experience with York City and Guiseley.

**Mike Brody (Utility)** moved to York Street towards the end of last season from Northern Premier League Goolie Town. Has a wealth of Football League experience, some 429 games, with Chelsea, Bristol City, Grimsby Town, Derby County and Southport United. Also a member of the Scarborough side that became the first ever side to gain automatic promotion to the Football League.

**Paul Wilson (Forward)** joined the Pilgrims in July 1987 from Frickley Athletic. Top goalscorer last season with 21 goals to his credit. Spent four seasons with Frickley Athletic. Previously Donaby United, he spent the early part of 1986 season in Australia with Heidelberg Alexandria, gained his only England Semi-Professional cap against Wales at Merthyr Tydfil in March 1986.

**Glenn Beech (Midfield)** is a 28 year old who joined the Pilgrims from Beazer Homes League Division One Midland Club Grantham where he scored 32 goals last season. He had been with the Gingerbreads for three seasons. Previously with Stamford, having played in their 1984 F.A. Vase Final side at Wembley when they lost 3-2 to Stannett. Also played for Rushden and Baker Perkins.

**Chris Cook (Forward)** is now firmly established as one of the leading strikers in the non-League game, starting his ninth season with the Pilgrims and still only 26 years old. Missed almost all of last season with a badly broken arm sustained at Bath City in September. Top scorer in 1986-87 with 27 goals, and scored the Pilgrims goal in the 2-1 defeat by Wealdstone in the 1985 F.A. Trophy Final.

**Billy Miller (Goalkeeper)** is an experienced keeper who signed for the Pilgrims in March 1987 from Alfreton Town, having gained Football League experience with Doncaster

Rovers.

**Gary Simpson (Midfield)** signed for the Pilgrims for the second time in July for a fee of £7,000 from Stafford Rangers. First joined the Pilgrims in 1980 on a free transfer from Stoke City. Captained Boston United in their F.A. Trophy Final at Wembley in 1985. Left shortly after to go to Stafford Rangers, then moved on to Weymouth for a short time, before moving back to Marston Road and captaining their side for the past two seasons. A member of the England semi-professional squad for the past two years.

**Allen Crombie (Midfield)** transferred from near neighbours Lincoln City in July 1988 for a fee of £2,500. Had a two month spell on loan at York Street towards the end of last season joined Lincoln City midway through last season from Lincoln United for a nominal fee.

**David Cusack (Defender)** is an experienced central defender who signed for Boston in August 1988. Started his career with Sheffield Wednesday, making 92 Football League Appearances, before being transferred to Southend United for £50,000 where he made 136 Football League Appearances. He then joined Millwall for £30,000 and after a spell at The Den, he moved on again for £40,000 to Doncaster Rovers. Recently had spells with both Doncaster Rovers and Rotherham United as Player-Manager. During his League career, he made over 500 appearances.

**Stewart Hamill (Forward)** is a 28 year old who signed for a four figure fee from Fourth Division Scarborough in August 1988. A regular member of their side that made it's Football League debut last season after winning the GM Vauxhall Conference championship at the end of 1986-87. Previous experience with Nuneaton Borough, Kettering Town and Northampton Town.

## Conference results to date 1988/89

Opposition	V	W	R	A
SUTTON UNITED	H	3-1	2011	
MACCLESFIELD TOWN	H	3-2	2332	
Aylebury United	A	2-1	1072	
Telford United	A	1-0	1406	
MAIDSTONE UNITED	H	1-4	2701	
Yeovil Town	A	1-1	2005	
CHORLEY	H	2-0	2402	
Enfield	A	2-1	723	
CHELTHAM TOWN	H	1-1	2105	
RUNCORN	H	0-6	2160	
Newport County	A	1-1	1131	
Welling United	A	2-3	810	
BARNET	H	0-0	1024	

## Scorers

Wilson, Mossman, Ward
Hardy, Wilson 2
Cook, Shirliffe
Cook
Hamill (pen)
og
Cook, Hamill (pen)
Hamill, Beech
Hamill (pen)
Beech
Wilson 2
Hamill 3 (2 pen), Miller, Wilson

# are you Murphy in disguise?

## GEORGE KERR'S COLUMN



Football is often said to be a funny game but I doubt if Mrs. Robson, wife of the England Manager, would agree at this time and certainly it has been very cruel to many people who over the years have given everything to it in Jock Stein's case his very life.

However, it does throw up many situations that do make us chuckle and one such incident happened last week against Welling. John Blackwell was heard to shout out to Gary Simpson to get stuck in, adding that the club doctor was with us should Gary be unfortunate enough to get injured.

We all remember incidents where dogs have run onto the field our hare against Macclesfield - and I remember an incident at Market Rasen one Sunday morning when I was playing with Lincoln's City Youth team where a horse bolted amongst the players.

All these incidents, I am quite sure, helped bring a bit of humour into the games making players and spectators relax, if only for a brief moment.

In my opinion, football has become far too serious to the detriment of those involved both on the playing side and those who spectate. Football, I have always believed, relates to life and there is no doubt in my mind that the game, and those who play and watch it, have become very vicious with their attitudes.

Let me put it another way, all these newspaper reporters who are calling for Bobby Robson's head at this time will be members of a trade union - likewise a fair few supporters - and somebody ought to remind them that Bobby Robson is also in the Football League Managers' Union, all brothers together related by the T.U.C. The question should be asked "when did it become the policy of trade union members to create a situation where they played an active part in the removal of a fellow union member from his job".

Relating to our position where we have gained twenty-one points from twelve games, it should be noted that we are doing as well as Manchester City and better than Leeds United, Chelsea, Stoke, Sunderland, etc.

I saw in our performance last week, despite the defeat, many things that were very encouraging for the future, so let's support our players today and remember it's only a game of football no matter what level we are playing at.

Thank you for your support, it is very much appreciated by all of us.  
Regards, George.

Programme notes v Barnet, last Saturday

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NEXT 'CHAIRBOYS EXPRESS' SAT 26<sup>TH</sup> NOV  
v ALTRINCHAM - by train.